

**JESUS CHANGES EVERYTHING****Jesus Calls**

Mark 1:14-20

**THE POINT:**  
*Following Jesus  
is a life-changing  
adventure and you  
are invited.*

**THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE**

Social media gives us the opportunity to follow individuals and groups. By following them, we can see into their lives or know what they're promoting—but we can do so only from a distance. Jesus invites us to follow Him in a far more intimate way. Following Jesus will require us to change directions, but the journey we take with Him leads us to abundant and eternal life.

► **What great adventure is on your bucket list?**

**INTRO**

God never intended that life would be boring. There are times when it's necessary to plug away at monotonous tasks. However, if we ever find that life has become dull across the board, chances are we're devoting too much time and attention to worthless things. When Jesus called His disciples to leave their nets to follow Him, they had no clue as to the adventure that waited. For the adventurous among us, let's make sure to focus our natural tendencies on glorifying Jesus. For the more reserved, let's embrace the adventure as we step out in faith. Either way, Jesus calls us to follow Him, and it's an adventure worth living!

**MARK 1:14-16**

Jesus preached to many Jews that believed they "earned" right-standing with God by keeping the 613 rules they were required to follow. Jesus had a different message. We relate to God by:

- Believing He is the Savior.
- Confessing that we've previously lived in a way that's faithless and displeasing to God.
- Turning around and pursuing God instead of our own way.

This is the gospel. This is good news!

► **Why is it essential to believe and also repent to enter the kingdom of God?**

**MARK 1:16-18**

Simon and Andrew were fishermen, the sons of a fisherman, and fishing was what they did and what they were known for. When Jesus came their way, they were, to no one's surprise, fishing. The brothers had been with Jesus before (John 1:40-42), but this particular encounter was special. They recognized the authority and the hope found only in Jesus, and they followed! Jesus called them to live in a way that wasn't completely unfamiliar, but they had a brand new purpose. Simon and Andrew left the old, normal, comfortable life they knew so well for the great adventure found in living for Jesus. Today, Jesus is calling us to the same thing.

► **What are some of the ways Jesus calls people today?**

**MARK 1:19-20**

A short time later, Jesus encountered another set of brothers. Jesus called to them in the same way He called Simon and Andrew, and their response was the same—they followed Jesus. For the next three years, these four men would live with Jesus, learn from Him, and experience the exhilarating highs and agonizing lows. After Jesus ascended and sent His Holy Spirit, these four men (along with the other disciples) went in unique directions to do what God called them to do. These followers went from casting nets for fish to drawing souls to Jesus. And our purpose is the same. Jesus has called all who follow Him to spread the gospel for the sake of bringing people to Him. How have you responded to Jesus' call to repent, believe, and follow?

► **What does Jesus' phrase "Follow Me" suggest about the way we're to relate to Him?**



# LIVE IT OUT

## ▶ CHRIST

Jesus' call to "Follow Me" involves living daily in a close relationship with Him. The disciples left everything in order to be with Jesus.

- ▶ **List three ways you've done well in following Jesus.**
  
- ▶ **What are three specific ways you can grow in following Jesus?**

## ▶ COMMUNITY

Following Jesus is a lifestyle that's lived out in community. Jesus didn't just call Andrew—He also called Peter, James, and John. Then many others.

- ▶ **What are the most meaningful ways others have encouraged you in your pursuit of following Jesus?**
  
- ▶ **What specifically will you do this week to encourage a friend?**

## ▶ CULTURE

In our culture, the idea that someone would give up a successful business (after all, James and John's boat had hired servants) to follow Jesus seems absurd. However, following Jesus means treasuring Him above all else and leaving behind the things we cared about before devoting ourselves to Him.

**This week, how will you demonstrate to the world that you are a follower of Jesus?**

**How will you deal with people who criticize you for following Him?**



## BIBLE READING PLAN



**DAY 1**  
MARK 1:1-11

**DAY 2**  
MARK 1:12-28

**DAY 3**  
MARK 1:29-45

**DAY 4**  
MARK 2:1-17

**DAY 5**  
MARK 2:18-28

**DAY 6**  
MARK 3:1-19

**DAY 7**  
MARK 3:20-35